from processor section **22**. Because the display **32** is typically a liquid crystal display (LCD), backlighting is generally required for the purposes of providing a contrasting background for the darker images.

The housings **10** and **12** of the computer system C are typically formed from a suitable strength rigid synthetic resin material to protect the electronic components contained therein. The housings **10** and **12** may be folded together about their hinged connections **14** and **16** and locked or latched to each other when the computer system C is not in use. The computer system C is opened by folding housing sections **10** and **12** apart so that the display **32** stands generally upright, while the housing **10** rests on a suitable support or surface. In this position, a frontal or data entry surface **34** of the housing **10** is accessible to the computer user face-on or in a frontal viewing position. The data entry surface **34** of the housing **10** has the data entry mechanism or keyboard **18** mounted on it.

In the computer system C, an infrared (IR) sensor **36** mounted with other infrared electronics **38** (FIGS. **2** and **4**) is suitably located such as on a circuit board B within the housing **10**. According to the present invention, an infrared port **40** (FIGS. **3** and **4**) is formed on the data entry or frontal surface **34** of the housing **10**. In this manner, communications from a hand-held or portable infrared control transmitter is made possible from the same aspect or side of the computer system C on which is located the data entry mechanism **18**.

The infrared port **40** may be made of any suitable material which is transparent or translucent to infrared energy. Examples include suitable types of synthetic resin or glass which are transparent or translucent to infrared light. In this manner, infrared signals providing infrared communication capability with remaining portions of the computer system C are possible through the infrared port **40**. If desired, a mirror **42** or other surface reflective of infrared light may be mounted or otherwise formed along an inner surface **44** of a rear wall **46** of the housing **10**. This permits infrared light as indicated by a line designated with reference numeral L to enter the infrared port **40** in the data entry or frontal surface **34**. The incoming infrared light L is directed by the reflective surface **42** onto the infrared sensor **36**, when sensor **36** is not located at a position directly facing the infrared port **40**.

The housing **10** may also be provided with a conventional, rear mounted infrared port **50** (FIG. **5**) in the rear wall **46** of the housing **10**. This permits infrared communication to be made to the computer system C through either the frontal surface **34** of the housing **10** through the port **40** or through the rear wall **46** through the rear mounted infrared port **50**.

A movable sliding wall or door member **52** may be mounted in the rear wall **46** of the housing **10** to selectively open and close the port **50** to passage of infrared light. The movable wall **52** is movable laterally along the lateral extent of the rear wall **46** to allow selective closure or opening of the rear mounted infrared port **50**.

The movable wall **52** is provided with an infrared light reflective surface or mirror on its inner surface in a like manner to mirror **41** on rear wall **46** shown in FIG. **3**. The reflective surface on the movable wall **52** functions when the wall **52** is blocking passage of infrared light through the port **50** to reflect infrared light entering through the frontal port **40** and direct such reflected light onto the infrared sensor **36**.

Accordingly, it can be seen that the present invention provides a new and improved personal computer system with infrared communication capability. The housing **10** which contains the processor **22**, also has both the data input mechanism **18** and the infrared port **40** mounted on the data entry surface **34**.

The infrared port **40** is thus located on the same surface **34** of the housing **10** as the data entry mechanism **18**. The infrared sensor **36** is thus accessible to infrared light from the same frontal direction as data is entered into the computer system C. The frontal infrared port **40** may be the sole inlet for infrared light to the infrared sensor **36**, or the computer system housing may have both a frontal infrared port **40** according to the present invention and the conventional, rear-mounted infrared light port **50** as well, if desired.

When the computer system housing 1O is provided with both the frontal port **40** and the rear-mounted infrared port **50**, a light reflective mechanism, such as a mirror, can be provided. Such a light reflective mechanism is movable on the movable wall **52** to selectively direct incoming infrared light from either one of the infrared ports **40** and **50** onto the infrared sensor **36**. In this way, only one infrared sensor **36** and associated infrared electronics **38** are required for the computer system C.

Having described the invention above, various modifications of the techniques, procedures, material and equipment will be apparent to those in the art. It is intended that all such variations within the scope and spirit of the appended claims be embraced thereby.

I claim:

1. A personal computer system with infrared light communication capability, comprising:

a processor;

a data entry input mechanism for entry of data into said processor;

a housing containing said processor and having said data entry input mechanism mounted on a data entry surface thereof;

an infrared light sensor for receiving infrared communications for said processor;

an infrared receiving port coupled to said infrared light sensor and formed in said data entry surface of said housing for passage of infrared light to said infrared sensor; and

a light reflective mechanism moveable to selectively block and pass light between said infrared port and said infrared sensor.

2. The personal computer system of claim **1** wherein said light reflective mechanism comprises a light reflective surface which is reflective of infrared light.

3. The personal computer system of claim **2**, wherein said light reflective surface comprises a mirror.

4. The personal computer system of claim **1**, further including

said housing having a side wall; and

an infrared port in said housing side wall for passage of infrared light to said infrared sensor.

5. The personal computer system of claim **4**, wherein said light reflective mechanism selectively directs light entering said infrared port in said data entry surface and light entering said infrared port in said side wall onto said infrared sensor.

6. A personal computer system with infrared light communication capability, comprising:

a processor;

a data entry input mechanism for entry of data into said processor;

a housing containing said processor and having said data entry input mechanism mounted on a data entry surface thereof;